

## **The case systems of nouns and pronouns in Khanty**

### **1. The Khanty language**

Khanty, one of the Finno-Ugric languages spoken in Western Siberia, consists now of two main groups of dialects – western (northern) and eastern. There used to be one more dialect area – the southern one, but it does not exist any more. The differences between these dialects are so considerable that they are sometimes called separate languages (BALANDIN 1955).

The following report is based on field materials from two dialects, one from each of the two dialect areas: the Kazym dialect (belonging to the western [northern] group) and the Trom-Agan subdialect of the Surgut dialect (belonging to the eastern group of dialects).

### **2. The case system of pronouns**

The case systems of nouns and personal pronouns in Khanty differ from each other in the set of case forms (Tables 1 and 2). Personal pronouns refer only to persons (men, women, children, ancestors, spirits, etc.). In contrast to nouns, personal pronouns have (a) a special accusative form and (b) also a dative form. An example with the accusative is:

- (1) Kaz.  
ma nãŋ-ti ũwæt-s-em  
I.NOM you-ACC call-Past-1SgO  
'I called you.'

The dative to some extent coincides with the lative in the case system of nouns, but it has a narrower meaning. The lative can designate:

- a person for whom or to whom something is addressed or intended (addressee, beneficiary);
- direction of a movement;
- purpose; or

- transformation, change of a current condition (LAZAREV, RAIŠEV, JUR'JEVA, 1959; TEREŠKIN, 1974).

The dative of personal pronouns designates mainly the addressee or beneficiary, but some of the meanings mentioned above are not compatible with the notion of animate person (purpose or transformation, for example). An example with the dative is:

- (2) Kaz.  
 nāj man-em jāŋχ-əm əλŋ-en-an pōtərt-a  
 you.NOM me-DAT go-PartPast about-2Sg-LOC tell-Imper2Sg  
 'Tell me about your trip.'

For non-persons (animals, fish, trees, plants, things), demonstrative pronouns (Kaz. *tām*, 'this', *tōm*, 'that'; Surg. *tem*, 'this', *tom*, 'that', *t'i*, *t'it*, 'this', *t'u*, *t'ut*, 'that') or a demonstrative pronoun with the noun *ōt*, 'thing' are used. Being a substitute for a noun, they have no accusative form and are inflected like nouns. For example:

- (3) Kaz.  
 tām-en wūj-aλn  
 this-your take-Imper2DuO  
 'Take these two of your things.'

- (4) Surg.  
 lūw āntəp wār-əλ-Ø  
 he.NOM cradle.NOM make-Pres-3SgS  
 'He is making a cradle.'  
 t'u ət-əλ wār-λəγ-aλ-nə, arγ-ət arγ-əλ-Ø  
 this thing-his make-Part-3Sg-LOC, song-Plsing-Pres-3SgS  
 'Until he makes this thing of his, he is singing songs.'

### 3. Oblique forms of the personal pronouns

There are certain differences in the formation of the case forms of personal pronouns of the 1<sup>st</sup> singular, on the one hand, and all other forms, on the other hand.

#### A. Type of a stem

In the 1<sup>st</sup> singular there are two types of stems in Kazym, nominative *ma-* and oblique *man-* (Table 1). In Surgut, the existence of three "oblique" stems could be claimed – one for the accusative (*man-*), a second one for the dative (*man-t-*) and a third one for all the other cases (*man-t-em-*) (Table 2).

The nominative stem *ma-* is used above all in the nominative, and also in the locative in the Surgut dialect. The locative suffix *-nə* is attached directly to the nominative form: *ma-nə*. Surg. NOM-*nə*. Such a locative form could equally be regarded as the result of a phonetic simplification of the form \**man-nə* (mention forms of the approximative, instrumental and comitative).

Although this case is still named locative in the case system of personal pronouns, because of its suffix, its only function is to indicate the actor in sentences with a passive predicate. In this way the nominative and the locative are opposed to all the other cases (a) by their structure: both of them have the same nominative stem (in this sense it is better to place the locative directly after the nominative in the personal pronoun paradigm); and (b) by their shared meaning: both of these cases indicate the actor of an action, although the nominative is used in sentences with active predicates, whereas the locative is used in sentences with a passive predicate. The difference between active and passive constructions in Khanty could be explained through the pragmatic principles of text organization, and will partly be discussed below.

- (5) Surg.  
 ma-nə nūŋ jəŋk-at katləγ-Ø-o-Ø  
 I-LOC you.NOM water-INSTR send-Past-Pass-2Sg  
 'You were sent for water by me.'

In Kazym, personal pronouns do not have a locative form. However, a locative form is used with nouns:

- (6) Kaz.  
 šī neŋ-en-ən χətχar-en wəšəm-λ-a-Ø  
 this woman-your-LOC floor-your.NOM scrape-Pres-Pass-3Sg  
 'Your floor will be scraped by this woman.'

There is no distinction of nominative and oblique stems for personal pronouns other than the 1<sup>st</sup> singular.

### B. Accusative

The accusative form takes the suffix *-Vt*: Kaz., Surg. *Oblique stem=ACC*: Kaz. *man-ət, man-ti, Surg. man-t*.

In Kazym, there exists a variation in the accusative suffix, which can be explained by regional variation: in some areas, the suffix *-ət* is used, in others the suffix *-ti*.

- (7) Kaz.  
 Petr-en nãη-ti (nãη-ət) sí χολ ewəλt nōχ tāλ-λ-aλe  
 Peter-your you-ACC this crack from out pull-Pres-3SgO  
 'Peter will pull you out of this crack.'

### C. Dative

In the Kazym dialect, the dative has a suffix which corresponds to the possessive suffixes of nouns. It is attached directly to the stem (oblique in the 1<sup>st</sup> singular or non-oblique) of any personal pronoun: Kaz. *Oblique stem=POSS: man-em*. Sometimes personal pronouns take both the possessive suffix and the lative suffix: Kaz. *Oblique stem=POSS=LAT: man-em-a*. Compare the following pairs of examples:

- (8) Kaz.  
 [W h a t do I need?]  
 man-em wõn λaraś mɔs-λ-Ø  
 [+F]  
 I-DAT big box.NOM need-Pres-3SgS  
 'I need a big box.'

- (9) Kaz.  
 [W h o needs a big box?]  
 wõn λaraś man-em-a mɔs-λ-Ø  
 [+F]  
 big box.NOM he-DAT-LAT need-Pres-3SgS  
 'It's me, who needs a big box.'

- (10) Kaz.  
 [W h a t have I given to you?]  
 ma nãη-en wũχ-em ma-s-em  
 [+F]  
 I.NOM you-DAT money-my.NOM give-Past-1SgO  
 'I have given you my money.'

- (11) Kaz.  
 [W h o m shall I give my book?]  
 ma kinškaj-em nãη-en-a ma-λ-em  
 [+F]  
 I.NOM book-my.NOM you-DAT-LAT give-Pres-1SgO  
 'I'll give you my book.'

Thus the same form can have two synonymous suffixes. This could indicate a tendency to unify the case systems of nouns and personal pronouns. But the difference most probably concerns the communicative structure of these sentences. In examples (9) and (11) personal pronouns in the "double" dative-lative form occupy the focus position, which in Khanty, a SOV language, is the position before the verb. The meaning of example (9) is "w h o needs a big box", while the meaning of example (8) is "w h a t he needs"; the same difference is relevant for the second pair of examples: (10) "w h a t have I given to you"; (11) "w h o m shall I give my book".

In the Surgut dialect, the corresponding possessive affix is attached to the accusative form only in the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular: Surg. *Oblique stem=ACC=POSS: man-t-em*. Other personal pronouns take the suffix *-i*: Surg. *Oblique stem=ACC=i: nũη-at-i*. In this dialect, there also exists a lative form for personal pronouns, which has a similar structure, the lative suffix being attached to the dative form: Surg. *Dative (Oblique stem = ACC = POSS / -in) = LAT: man-t-em-a, nũη-at-in-a*.

### D. Other oblique cases

In the Kazym dialect, there are no other oblique cases besides accusative and dative.

In the Surgut dialect, suffixes of all the other oblique cases (except the locative) are attached to the corresponding dative form and have the following structure: *Dative (Oblique stem=ACC=POSS / -in) = Case: man-t-em-nam, λũw-at-in-am*.

### E. Oppositions in the case system of personal pronouns

To conclude, nominative, accusative, dative and locative form a separate system in the declension of personal pronouns. They have a specific set of forms, different from those in the case system of nouns, and are opposed to the other cases by (a) their meaning (subject / object  $\leftrightarrow$  circumstantial) and also (b) by their structure. In the Surgut dialect, circumstantial cases are formed from the dative stem, which is their oblique stem. Subject-object cases have their own oblique stems: this is the stem *man-* for the accusative and the stem of accusative for the dative.

### 4. The case system of nouns

In both dialects, nouns have no special accusative form. Instead, the nominative form is used.

- (12) Kaz.  
 ἰῶχσῶη jōrəŋ ik-en, χῖλ-ελ tūw-əm  
 sable Nenets man-your.NOM, grandson-his.NOM take-PastPart  
 jūrijn, λapat wūrti wūli katλ-əs-Ø,  
 after, seven red reindeer.NOM harness-Past-3SgS,  
 λapat χᾶνῶη, λapat nōwi  
 seven many.colored, seven white  
 'After they had taken his grandson away, this Nenets man of the Sable clan harnessed seven red reindeers, seven many-coloured reindeers, seven white reindeers.'

- (13) Surg.  
 jəj-əm jǎŋk wəli kit-Ø-əl  
 eldest.brother-my.NOM ice reindeer.NOM catch-Past-3SgS  
 'My eldest brother has caught a white reindeer.'

Nouns have a lative form; when governed by verbs of some specific semantic groups they can alternate with a postposition *peła*. Its primary meaning is spatial: 'on', 'to'. With verbs of saying and of vision it means 'towards a person, to whom the speech is addressed'. In some sentences the postposition *peła* keeps its spatial meaning, as in the following example:

- (14) Kaz.  
 pōrti wəj tīlās peła ūrtət'λ'a-λ-Ø  
 carrying animal.NOM moon to howl-Pres-3SgS  
 'A wolf is howling to the moon.'

Its spatial meaning is less obvious in the following examples with the verb *lōp-*, 'to speak, to tell' and an object which could be equally expressed by personal pronouns in the dative, nouns in the lative and nouns with a postposition.

- (15) Kaz.  
 nin-an śi lōp-λ-əm  
 you-DAT this tell-Pres-1SgS  
 'I shall tell you.'
- (16) Kaz.  
 ūwas jōrəŋ ik-en ἰῶχσῶη jōrŋ-aλ-a  
 Northern Nenets man-your.NOM sable Nenets.man-his-LAT  
 lōp-əl-Ø ...  
 tell-Pres-3SgS  
 'This Northern Nenets man speaks to the Sable Nenets man.'
- (17) Kaz.  
 ūwas jōrəŋ iki ūp-əl  
 northern Nenets man.NOM father.in.law-his.NOM  
 pōχ-λaλ peła lōrij-λ-Ø...  
 son-many.his to tell-Pres-3SgS  
 'A Northern Nenets man tells the sons of his father-in-law ...'

Examples with verbs of vision:

- (18) Kaz.  
 χōlijewa taŋla ak-em-a want-λ-at  
 everybody Daniel uncle-my-LAT look-Pres-3PIS  
 'Everybody is looking at my uncle Daniel.'
- (19) Kaz.  
 pirās iki χot šānš-əl peła ᾶŋkərma-s-Ø  
 old man.NOM house.NOM back-its to glance-Past-3SgS  
 'The old man glanced behind the house.'

If the verb of saying has the additional meaning of an emotional reaction, the postposition *peła* must be used.

- (20) Kaz.  
im-em                    pōχ-əλ    peła    λ'awət-λ-Ø  
woman-your.NOM    son-her    to       scold-Pres-3SgS  
'This woman scolds her son.'
- (21) Kaz.  
ma    ew-em            peła    wankūtλ    eḡraś-λ-em  
I.NOM    daughter-my    to       often       grumble-Pres-1SgO  
'I often grumble at my daughter.'
- (22) Kaz.  
aḡksās-em                    nāḡ    peλ-an-a    χišəmt-əs-Ø  
grandfather-my.NOM    you    on-Poss.2Sg    shout-Past-3SgS  
'My grandfather shouted at you.'

There is another example of variation between the dative or lative and the postposition *pāta*, 'for', which is used to express the semantic role of a beneficiary.

- (23) Kaz.  
ma    nāḡ-en (nāḡ pāt-en-a       /    im-eλ-a)  
I.NOM    you-DAT (you for-Poss2Sg-LAT /    woman-his-LAT)  
ñañ            wer-s-em  
bread.NOM    do-Past-1SgO  
'I have prepared bread for you / for his wife.'

## 5. Functioning of subject / object cases in Khanty

Apart from some other forms, the nominative, accusative, dative / lative and locative are the cases expressing the main subject and object roles (actor, patient, addressee, beneficiary, etc.). Although there were some attempts to list the case functions of Khanty (LAZAREV, RAIŠEV, JUR'JEVA, 1959; TEREŠKIN, 1974), they were not really successful, because each of these cases can express any of the subject / object roles. As a consequence, such lists become useless, because they must enumerate the same set of functions for every case.

The rules regulating the use of the subject and object cases are based on pragmatic functions in the text; semantic roles are less relevant. What is really important is which participant of the situation becomes topic or focus in the sentence. Case variation is accompanied by a change in the type of

conjugation: indefinite / subjective, definite / objective and passive. In Khanty, a passive can be formed rather freely from almost all transitive or intransitive verbs (KULONEN 1989).

As there is no case alternation in sentences with intransitive verbs, only sentences with transitive and ditransitive verbs will be discussed.

### 5.1 Sentences with transitive verbs

These sentences describe different types of action (somebody does something), physical intake and mental perception (somebody eats / sees / hears / understands something) and have the initial structure:  $N_{\text{NOM}}^S N_{\text{ACC/NOM}}^O V_{\text{S/O}}$ , which can be transformed into:  $N_{\text{NOM}}^O N_{\text{LOC}}^S V_{\text{PASS}}$ . In such a case, the position of the subject in the locative may be freely deleted.

- (24) Kaz.  
meñ-em                    χūλ            ewät-λ-Ø  
sister.in.law-my.NOM    fish.NOM    cut-Pres-3SgS  
'My sister-in-law is cutting a fish.'
- (25) Kaz.  
meñ-em-n                    χūλ-em            ewät-λ-a-Ø  
sister.in.law-my-LOC    fish-my.NOM    cut-Pres-Pass-3Sg  
'A fish is cut by my sister-in-law.'
- (26) Kaz.  
ew-em                    lūw-eλ    nḡm-əλ-Ø  
daughter-my.NOM    he-ACC    remember-Pres-3SgS  
'My daughter remembers him.'
- (27) Kaz.  
lūw    ew-em-n                    nḡm-λ-a-Ø  
he.NOM    daughter-my-LOC    remember-Pres-Pass-3Sg  
lit.: 'He is remembered by my daughter.'

This transformation occurs, if the subject is no more a topic of the sentence. It loses its first position in the hierarchy of communicative roles and takes the locative suffix. The object, on the other hand, moves to the topic position, taking a nominative suffix. The position of the subject in the locative form could be interpreted both as non-topic or focus, depending on the context. (For a detailed description of the correlation between different types of topics see NIKOLAEVA, KOVGAN, KOŠKARĚVA 1993.) It turns out that the

opposition topic vs non-topic does not change the structure of the sentence, while the topic / focus correlation causes a change in case marking.

The same type of case variation occurs in sentences describing the transfer of an object (one carries / moves / conducts something / somebody to somewhere / from somewhere):

$N_{NOM}^S N_{Acc/NOM}^O LOC V_{S/O} \Rightarrow N_{NOM}^{Ob} (N_{Loc}^S) LOC V_{Pass}$ .

(28) Surg.

Ma nŭŋ-ət stansij-a tu-λ-əm  
I.NOM you-ACC station-LAT take-Pres-1SgS  
'I'll take you to the railway station.'

In this sentence, the personal pronoun *ma* (1<sup>st</sup> singular in the nominative) is the topic and the actor. But a passive form of this sentence is also possible:

(29) Surg.

ma-nə nŭŋ stansij-a tu-λ-o-Ø.  
I-LOC you.NOM station-LAT take-Pres-Pass-2Sg  
'You will be taken to the station by me.'

Such a sentence could be used, if the preceding context describes, for example, what should be done by 'you' before the departure. Consider sentences with a somewhat wider context:

(30) Surg.

ξο kŭr-əl ilə meritəl-Ø-təγ.  
man.NOM leg-his.NOM down break-Past-3SgO  
'A man has broken his leg.'

Jəγ-əl-nə λŭw jaξ-ə tu-λ-i-Ø.  
father-his-LOC he.NOM house-LAT take-Pres-Pass-3Sg  
'He is taken to the house by his father.'

Both sentences in (30) refer to the same person: *ξο*, 'a man'. That is why the word *λŭw*, 'he' has the nominative form, although 'he' is not an actor, but a patient of this action. The nominative here marks only the topic of a story, the locative *jəγ-əl-nə*, 'father-his-LOC' denotes the actor.

(31) Surg.

Ma keλŋət-nə Pəta oγət-Ø-əm.  
I.NOM pier-LOC Pəta meet-Past-1SgS  
'I have met Pəta on the pier.'

Jay-nat năwm-əl-Ø.

people-COM talk-Pres-3SgS

'She is talking with some people.'

Man-t kŭt-i nōξ katəl-min tōj-əl-Ø.

I-ACC hand-ABL quite grip-Grnd hold-Pres-3SgS

'She has caught my hand and does not let me go.'

[lit. '... me hand-by griping holds.']

This passage is interesting because of the change of the topic. In the first sentence the topic is *ma*, in the second and in the third it is *Pəta*. So it becomes possible to use the 1<sup>st</sup> person pronoun in the accusative form. Otherwise, if the topic of the sentence is *ma*, it will be used in the nominative:

(32) Surg.

λŭw-nə ma kŭt-i katəl-min tōj-λ-oj-əm  
she-LOC I.NOM hand-ABL grip-Grnd hold-Pres-Pass-1Sg  
'She is catching me by my hand.'

If the topic and the actor are different persons and if both are 3<sup>rd</sup> person, Khanty finds a way to avoid a possible misunderstanding by using the objective / definite conjugation:

(33) Surg.

nəwrəm jis-təγə jiy-Ø-Ø.  
child.NOM cry-Inf begin-Past-3SgS  
'A child began to cry.'

Aŋki-λ wanyə mən-Ø-Ø...  
mother-his.NOM close come-Past-3SgS

panpə năkxiλ-təγə wār-Ø-təγ.  
and lull-Inf begin-Past-3SgO

'His mother came to him and began to lull him.'

The topic of the second sentence is the mother, the verb *wār-*, 'to begin' has the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular object suffix *-təγ*. The verb form by itself indicates the presence of the direct object. In this case there is no need to express it by means of an additional word.

If the topic changes, both subject and object can be involved:

(34) Surg.

Pəta kemən nəwrəm-əl sām taytə-Ø-təγ...  
Pəta.NOM on.the.street child-her.NOM eye.NOM notice-Past-3SgO

jay kŭtnə.

people among

'Pəta noticed her child on the street among the other people.'

wanyə wuy-Ø-təy.

close call-Past-3SgO

'She called him up.'

Аηki-λ-nə nəwrəm wanyə wuy-Ø-i-Ø panə ...

mother-his-LOC child.NOM close take-Past-Pass-3Sg and

'The mother clasped her child to her breast and

λŭw-nə λŭw nālkiλ-təy wār-Ø-i-Ø.

she-LOC he.NOM caress-Inf begin-Past-Pass-3Sg

she began to caress him.'

[lit. '... by her (the mother) he (the child) is caressed and she began to caress him (to caress is begun).']

## 5.2 Sentences with ditransitive verbs

These are the sentences, describing two main types of situations:

(a) "giving something to somebody": Kaz. *mā-*, 'to give', *röküpta-*, 'to give out, to distribute', *mɔjla-*, 'to present', *kit-*, 'to send', etc.

(35) Kaz.

nāŋ χŭl-en amp-en-a aλ mij-e

you.NOM fish-your.NOM dog-your-LAT not give-Imper.2SgO

'Don't give your fish to the dog.'

(b) "telling something to somebody"; in fact, this is the same type of situation as in (a) – a situation of giving some information to somebody: Kaz. *pötərt-*, 'to tell', *löp-*, 'to say', *nomə-*, 'to call, to name', *ari-*, 'to sing', *məis-*, 'to tell a tale'.

(36) Kaz.

λŭw jiləp pötər mŭŋ-ew pötərt-əs-Ø.

she.NOM new story.NOM we-DAT tell-Past-3SgS

'She told us a new story.'

Both types of the sentences have the same initial iconic structure:

$N_{\text{NOM}}^{\text{S}}$   $N_{\text{ACC/NOM}}^{\text{O}}$   $N_{\text{DAT/LAT}}^{\text{Adr}}$   $V_{\text{S/O}}$

and four pragmatic variants which can be freely constructed for every sentence of this type without any exception. Examples (37)-(41) illustrate variants of the same sentence 'Father gave a book to his daughter'.

(37) [What happened?]

Kaz.

aš-eλ kinška ew-eλ-a

father-her.NOM book.ACC / NOM<sup>1</sup> daughter-his-DAT / LAT

mā-s-Ø

give-Past-3SgS

'Father gave a book to his daughter.'

$N_{\text{NOM}}^{\text{S}}$   $N_{\text{ACC/NOM}}^{\text{O}}$   $N_{\text{DAT/LAT}}^{\text{Adr}}$   $V_{\text{S}}$

(38) [To whom did his father give a book?]

Kaz.

aš-eλ kinška ew-eλ-a

[+T] [+F]

father-her.NOM book.ACC / NOM daughter-his-DAT / LAT

mā-s-λe

give-Past-3SgO

'Father gave a book to his daughter.'

$N_{\text{NOM}}^{\text{S}}$   $N_{\text{ACC/NOM}}^{\text{O}}$   $N_{\text{DAT/LAT}}^{\text{Adr}}$   $V_{\text{O}}$

(39) [What did father give to his daughter?]

Kaz.

aš-eλ ew-eλ kinškaj-n

[+T] [+F]

father-her.NOM daughter-his.ACC / NOM book-LOC

mā-s-λe

give-Past-3SgO

[lit.: 'Father his daughter with a book gave.']

$N_{\text{NOM}}^{\text{S}}$   $N_{\text{ACC/NOM}}^{\text{Adr}}$   $N_{\text{LOC}}^{\text{O}}$   $V_{\text{O}}$

1 As this series of sentences represents a paradigm, a double case marking is used: ACC / NOM and DAT / LAT, for personal pronouns and nouns respectively. The case marker glosses, then, represent not only the form given in the sentence, but also its possible variation.

- (40) [There was a book on a table. To whom was the book given by the father?]

Kaz.

kinška aš-eλ-n ew-eλ-a  
 [-T] [+F]  
 book.NOM father-her-LOC daughter-his-DAT / LAT

mă-s-i-Ø

give-Past-Pass-3Sg

[lit.: 'A book was given by her father to his daughter.']

N<sup>O</sup><sub>NOM</sub> N<sup>S</sup><sub>LOC</sub> N<sup>Adr</sup><sub>DAT/LAT</sub> V<sub>Pass</sub>

- (41) [A daughter has got something from her father. With what was the daughter presented with by her father?]

Kaz.

ew-eλ aš-eλ-n kinškaj-n  
 [-T] [+F]

daughter-his.NOM father-her-LOC book-LOC

mă-s-i-Ø

give-Past-Pass-3Sg

[lit.: 'A daughter was given by her father by a book.']

N<sup>Adr</sup><sub>NOM</sub> N<sup>S</sup><sub>LOC</sub> N<sup>O</sup><sub>LOC</sub> V<sub>Pass</sub>

Such series of sentences are natural and quite frequent in Khanty. We consider them to be pragmatic variants of the same sentence. The paradigm of the Khanty sentence is represented in Table 3. This paradigm covers sentences with transitive (one-placed) and ditransitive (two-placed) verbs. For transitive verbs, the position of the addressee is irrelevant. Other components change according to the common rules.

## 6. Conclusions

Nominative, accusative, dative / lative and locative are opposed to all the other cases in the case system of nouns and personal pronouns, being a means of expressing subject / object / addressee relationships according to the communicative roles of the participants in a speech act. Two conditions must be taken into consideration, when speaking about the case variation of subject / object cases in Khanty:

- the communicative role of the subject: topic or non-topic;
- which participant of the speech act occupies the focus position.

Table 4 shows the correlation between the case marking of the subject, the type of verb conjugation and the corresponding communicative roles:

- when the subject is topic, it is in the nominative form and the verb is in the subjective / objective conjugation;
- when the subject is non-topic, it is in the locative form and the verb is in the passive conjugation.

That is if the subject is topic, the verb takes the subject / object conjugation. If the topic is other participant of the speech act, then the verb is passive. Thus the function of passive is to mark topic and focus in the text. The function of subject / object conjugation is to mark the communicative structure within the clause.

Table 5a represents the correlation between the communicative structure of the sentence and the subject-object roles of personal pronouns. The use of the nominative does not depend on a semantic role, it always marks the topic: subject, object and addressee can all have a nominative form if they are topics. Dative and locative mark a focus position. The dative is the case of the object in focus, while the locative is the case of the addressee in focus. The locative marks the non-topic subject as well. The accusative is the case for both object and addressee if they are non-topic. Thus for personal pronouns, the communicative structure of the sentence comprises three communicative roles: topic, non-topic and focus.

Table 5b represents the correlation between the communicative structure of the sentence and the subject-object roles of nouns. As there is no accusative in the case system of nouns, the communicative role of non-topic is not marked, it takes the same form as the topic. Thus for nouns, the opposition comprises only two roles – focus and non-focus.

To summarize, consider Tables 6 and 7, representing semantic roles and their possible case marking.



## Tables

Table 1: Case system of nouns and personal pronouns in Kazym (singular)

Case	Nouns	Personal pronouns		
		1	2	3
NOM.	–	ma	nãŋ	lũw
ACC.	∅	man-ət man-ti	nãŋ-ət nãŋ-ti	lũw-ət lũw-ti
DAT.	∅	man-em man-em-a	nãŋ-en nãŋ-en-a	lũw-eł lũw-eł-a
LAT.	-a	∅	∅	∅
LOC.	-n	∅	∅	∅

Table 2: Case system of nouns and personal pronouns in Surgut (singular)

Case	Nouns	Personal pronouns		
		1	2	3
NOM.	–	ma	nũŋ	lũw
LOC.	-nə	ma-nə	nũŋ-nə	lũw-nə
ACC.	∅	man-t	nũŋ-at	lũw-at
DAT.	∅	man-t-em	nũŋ-at-i	lũw-at-i
LAT.	-a	man-t-em-a	nũŋ-at-in-a	lũw-at-in-a
ABL.	-i	man-t-em-i	nũŋ-at-in-i	lũw-at-in-i
APPR.	-nam	man-t-em-nam	nũŋ-at-in-am	lũw-at-in-am
TRANSL.	-γə	man-t-em-γə	nũŋ-at-in-γə	lũw-at-in-γə
INSTR.	-at	man-t-em-at	nũŋ-at-in-at	lũw-at-in-at
COM.	-nat	man-t-em-nat	nũŋ-at-in-at	lũw-at-in-at
ABESS.	-λəγ	man-t-em-λəγ	nũŋ-at-in-λəγ	lũw-at-in-λəγ

Table 3: Pragmatic paradigm of the Khanty sentence

	+Topic	-Topic	Focus	Verb
1	N <sup>S</sup> <sub>NOM</sub>	N <sup>O</sup> <sub>ACC/NOM</sub>	N <sup>Adr</sup> <sub>Dat/LAT</sub>	V <sub>S</sub>
2	N <sup>S</sup> <sub>NOM</sub>	N <sup>O</sup> <sub>ACC/NOM</sub>	N <sup>Adr</sup> <sub>Dat/LAT</sub>	V <sub>O</sub>
3	N <sup>S</sup> <sub>NOM</sub>	N <sup>Adr</sup> <sub>ACC/NOM</sub>	N <sup>O</sup> <sub>Loc</sub>	V <sub>O</sub>
4	N <sup>O</sup> <sub>NOM</sub>	N <sup>S</sup> <sub>Loc</sub>	N <sup>Adr</sup> <sub>Dat/LAT</sub>	V <sub>Pass</sub>
5	N <sup>Adr</sup> <sub>NOM</sub>	N <sup>S</sup> <sub>Loc</sub>	N <sup>O</sup> <sub>Loc</sub>	V <sub>Pass</sub>

Table 4: Case marking, verb conjugation and communicative roles

Subject	Object	Addressee	Verb conjugation
NOM [+T]	ACC / NOM [-T]	DAT / LAT [+F]	S / O
NOM [+T]	LOC [+F]	ACC / NOM [-T]	O
LOC [-T]	NOM [+T]	DAT / LAT [+F]	Passive
LOC [-T]	LOC [+F]	NOM [+T]	

Table 5a: Communicative and semantic roles (personal pronouns)

	+ Topic	- Topic	+ Focus
Subject	NOM	ACC	LOC
Object			LOC
Addressee			DAT

Table 5b: Communicative and semantic roles (nouns)

	+ Topic	- Topic	+ Focus
Subject	NOM	NOM	LOC
Object			LOC
Addressee			LAT

Table 6a: Case marking and semantic roles (personal pronouns)

NOM [+T]	Subject
	Object
	Addressee
ACC [-T]	Object
	Addressee
DAT [+F]	Addressee
LOC	Subject [+F] [-T]
	Object [+F]

Table 6b: Case marking and semantic roles (nouns)

NOM [-F]	Subject [+T]
	Object [+T] [-T]
	Addressee [+T] [-T]
LAT [+F]	Addressee
LOC	Subject [+F] [-T]
	Object [+F]

Table 7: Semantic roles and case marking

Subject	NOM [+T]
	LOC [-T]
Object	NOM [+T]
	ACC / NOM [-T]
	LOC [+F]
Addressee	NOM [+T]
	ACC / NOM [-T]
	DAT / LAT [+F]

## Abbreviations

1	first person	N	noun
2	second person	NOM	nominative
3	third person	O	object
ABESS	Abessive	Part	participle
ABL	ablative	Pass	passive
ABS	absolutive	Past	past
ACC	accusative	Pl	plural
Adr	addressee	Poss	possessive
APPR	approximative	Pres	present
COM	comitative	S	subject
DAT	dative	Sg	Singular
Du	dual	Surg.	the Surgut dialect
ERG	ergative	[+T]	topic
[+F]	focus	[T]	non-topic
[F]	non-focus	TRANSL	translative
Grnd	gerund	V	verb
Imper	imperative	V <sub>O</sub>	verb in the objective conjugation
Inf	infinitive	V <sub>Pass</sub>	verb in the passive conjugation
INSTR	instrumentalis	V <sub>S</sub>	verb in the subjective conjugation
Kaz.	the Kazym dialect		
LAT	lative		
LOC	locative		

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